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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,794	03/08/2002	Yukihiro Abiko	1075.1193	3413

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EXAMINER

PYZOCHA, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2137

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/092,794

Applicant(s)

ABIKO ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Pyzocha

Art Unit

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7,9,11,13,15,17,19,21,23,25,30 and 31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7,9,11,13,23,25,30 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15,17,19 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2137

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, and 30-31 have been considered.

Claim Objections

2. The claim objections have been withdrawn based on the filed amendment. It is noted that Applicant stated in this response that claims 1 and 7 were amended to change "with using" to "using" however, it was changed to "with".

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 15, 17, 19, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 15: the prior art does not reasonably teach the changing of a file name when the names of logical drives do not match, as required by claim 15. Claim 17: the prior art fails to reasonably teach the preventing of writing a file name in a management table when the names of logical drives don't coincide. Claim 19: the prior art does not reasonably teach when the two drive names disagree the filtering

Art Unit: 2137

means is validated. Claim 21: this claim depends directly from claim 19 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-2 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by England et al. (US 6327652).

As per claims 1, 30, 31 and 32, England et al. discloses a storage medium for storing contents (see column 16 lines 50-52); application executing means for activating an application so that the application accesses the contents stored in the storage medium and effects a processing on the contents (see column 16 lines 52-55); access monitoring means for monitoring the status of access of the application to the contents by associating

Art Unit: 2137

inherent information for the application brought into an activated status by the application execution means, with inherent information for the contents accessed by the application (see column 16 lines 50-67); filtering means for enciphering the contents with using the inherent information for the application when the application under the activated status writes the contents into the storage medium while deciphering the contents with the inherent information for the application when the application under the activated status reads out the contents in the storage medium (see column 16 lines 50-67 and column 17 lines 16-31).

As per claim 2, England et al. discloses an operating system as software for controlling the execution of the application (see column 16 lines 50-55); the operating system assigns identification information to each process upon executing the application by the application executing means, and the access monitoring means utilizes the identification information as the inherent information for the application (see column 17 lines 16-31).

Art Unit: 2137

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3 and 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over England et al. in view of Mahne (US 6981141).

As per claim 3, England et al. fails to disclose the access monitoring means registers the inherent information for the application and the inherent information for the contents in a management table so that the inherent information for the application and the inherent information for the contents are associated with each other, and the access monitoring means monitors the status of access with the assistance of the management table.

However, Mahne teaches such registering (see column 8 line 17 through column 9 line 67).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the registering in the England et al. system.

Art Unit: 2137

Motivation to do so would have been to locate the information on the server (see Mahne column 9 lines 1-67).

As per claim 4, the modified England et al. and Mahne system appears to be silent as to deleting information in the table. Examiner takes official notice that it is known to delete information in a table for a number of reasons, including saving space and resources. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was filed to delete table information in the England et al. system for at least the reason that doing so frees up space.

8. Claims 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified England et al. and Mahne system in view of Elrod (Elrod, Elliot.

"Partitioning Your Hard Drive". Beyond the Basics. September 2000. Pages 1-6).

As per claims 5, 23, and 25, the modified England et al. and Mahne system fails to disclose the specific use of a logical drive.

However, Elrod teaches at least one piece of logical drive is built in the storage medium and the contents is reserved in the logical drive (Elrod: pages 3-4); a file system for managing the logical drive is built in each of the logical drive (Elrod: pages 3-4); at least one file system is arranged to serve as an

Art Unit: 2137

encryption file system which has a cryptographic attribute determined for each file or folder containing the contents, enciphers the contents at each file or folder upon storing the contents in the storage medium (Elrod: pages 3-4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was filed to combine the ideas of Elrod with those of England et al. because doing so makes the system more robust and secure, and even provides opportunities to better divide and separate data and improve data recovery options.

As per claims 7, 11, and 13, the modified England et al. and Elrod system discloses when the application reads out the contents stored in the logical drive managed by the encryption file system, the access monitoring means registers a file name of the file containing the contents read out by the application in the management table as the inherent information for the contents (see Mahne column 8 line 17 through column 9 line 67 and England et al. column 18 line 35 through column 19 line 49).

As per claim 9, the modified England et al., Mahne, and Elrod system fails to disclose when the application reads the contents stored in the logical drive managed by the encryption file system, the access monitoring means registers a drive name of the logical drive containing the contents read out by the

Art Unit: 2137

application in the management table as the inherent information for the contents.

Examiner takes official notice that it is known in the art to use a drive name to identify data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was filed to use a drive name to identify data because a drive name is inherent information associated with, and used to identify, a storage location of contents.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Pyzocha whose telephone number is (571) 272-3875. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am - 4:30pm first Fridays of the bi-week off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2137

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MJP


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